

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

Allowing consolidation of media ownership can only limit the variety of points of view expressed. I believe this would be very bad for all of us, who are, after all, dependent on various branches of the media for our information on the world. A breadth of viewpoint is essential, as our views, unfortunately, cannot help being influenced by the way that information is presented.

Although there may well currently be more sources of media than in the past, the range of views has become ever more limited. A major part of our democracy's strength has always been our freedom to hear and discuss a variety of ideas and ideals. We need to make sure that this freedom is not narrowed.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I also support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC not only to consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Valerie Graham

